



Ex-cop guilty of murder and manslaughter in Floyd case

By AMY FORLITI, STEPHEN GROVES and TAMMY WEBBER

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was convicted Tuesday of murder and manslaughter for pinning George Floyd to the pavement with his knee on the Black man's neck in a case that touched off worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S. Chauvin, 45, could be sent to prison for decades. People elated by the verdict flooded the surrounding streets downtown upon hearing the news. Cars blared their horns, and people ran through traffic, waving banners. Floyd family members gathered at a Minneapolis conference room could be heard cheering from the next room as each verdict was read.

The jury of six white people and six Black or multiracial ones came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. Chauvin was found guilty on all charges:



In this image from video, former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin, center, is taken into custody as his attorney, Eric Nelson, left, looks on, after the verdicts were read at Chauvin's trial for the 2020 death of George Floyd, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis, Minn.

Associated Press

second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. His face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom.

His bail was immediately revoked and he was led away with his hands cuffed behind his back. Sentencing will be in two months.

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Ex-cop guilty of murder and manslaughter in Floyd case

As the judge asked jurors if they reached a verdict, a hush fell on the crowd 300 strong in a park adjacent to the courthouse, with people listening to the proceedings on their cellphones. When the final guilty verdict was announced, the crowd roared, many people hugging, some shedding tears. At the intersection where Floyd was pinned down, a crowd chanted, "One down, three to go!" — a reference to the three other fired Minneapolis police officers facing trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting murder in Floyd's death.

Janay Henry, who lives nearby, said she felt grateful and relieved.

"I feel grounded. I can feel my feet on the concrete," she said, adding that she was looking forward to the "next case with joy and optimism and strength."

An ecstatic Whitney Lewis leaned halfway out a car window in a growing traffic jam of revelers waving a Black Lives Matter flag. "Justice was served," the 32-year-old from Minneapolis said. "It means George Floyd can now rest."

The verdict was read in a courthouse ringed with concrete barriers and razor wire and patrolled by National Guard troops, in a city on edge against another round of unrest — not just because of the Chauvin case but because of the deadly police shooting of a young Black man, Daunte Wright, in a Minneapolis suburb April 11.

The jurors identities were kept secret and will not be released until the judge decides it is safe to do so.

Floyd, 46, died May 25 after being arrested on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill for a pack of ciga-



People cheer after a guilty verdict was announced at the trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin for the 2020 death of George Floyd, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minn.
Associated Press

rettes at a corner market. He panicked, pleaded that he was claustrophobic and struggled with police when they tried to put him in a squad car. They put him on the ground instead.

The centerpiece of the case was the excruciating bystander video of Floyd gasping repeatedly, "I can't breathe" and onlookers yelling at Chauvin to stop as the officer pressed his knee on or close to Floyd's neck for what authorities say was 9 1/2 minutes. Floyd slowly went silent and limp.

Prosecutors played the footage at the earliest opportunity, during opening statements, with Jerry Blackwell telling the jury: "Believe your eyes." And it was shown over and over, analyzed one frame at a time by witnesses on both sides.

In the wake of Floyd's death, demonstrations and scattered violence broke out in Minneapolis, around the country and beyond.

The furor also led to the removal of Confederate statues and other offensive symbols such as Aunt Jemima.

In the months that followed, numerous states and cities restricted the use of force by police, revamped disciplinary systems or subjected police departments to closer oversight.

The "Blue Wall of Silence" that often protects police accused of wrongdoing crumbled after Floyd's death: The Minneapolis police chief quickly called it "murder" and fired all four officers, and the city reached a staggering \$27 million settlement with Floyd's family as jury selection was underway.

Police-procedure experts and law enforcement veterans inside and outside the Minneapolis department, including the chief, testified for the prosecution that Chauvin used excessive force and went against his training.

Medical experts for the

prosecution said Floyd died of asphyxia, or lack of oxygen, because his breathing was constricted by the way he was held down on his stomach, his hands cuffed behind him, a knee on his neck and his face jammed against the ground.

Chauvin attorney Eric Nelson called a police use-of-force expert and a forensic pathologist to help make the case that Chauvin acted reasonably against a struggling suspect and that Floyd died because of an underlying heart condition and his illegal drug use.

Floyd had high blood pressure, an enlarged heart and narrowed arteries, and fentanyl and methamphetamine were found in his system.

Under the law, police have certain leeway to use force and are judged according to whether their actions were "reasonable" under the circumstances.

The defense also tried to make the case that Chauvin and the other of-

ficers were hindered in their duties by what they perceived as a growing, hostile crowd.

Chauvin did not testify, and all that the jury or the public ever heard by way of an explanation from him came from a police body-camera video after an ambulance had taken the 6-foot-4, 223-pound Floyd away. Chauvin told a bystander: "We gotta control this guy 'cause he's a sizable guy ... and it looks like he's probably on something."

The prosecution's case also included tearful testimony from onlookers who said the police kept them back when they protested what was happening. Eighteen-year-old Darnella Frazier, who shot the crucial video, said Chauvin just gave the bystanders a "cold" and "heartless" stare.

She and others said they felt a sense of helplessness and lingering guilt from witnessing Floyd's slow-motion death.

"It's been nights I stayed up, apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically interacting and not saving his life," Frazier testified, while the 19-year-old cashier at the neighborhood market, Christopher Martin, lamented that "this could have been avoided" if only he had rejected the suspect \$20 bill.

To make Floyd more than a crime statistic in the eyes of the jury, the prosecution called to the stand his girlfriend, who told the story of how they met and how they struggled with addiction to opioids, and his younger brother Philonise. He recalled how Floyd helped teach him to catch a football and made "the best banana mayonnaise sandwiches." □

Ohio Republicans aim to rename state park after Donald Trump

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

Report for America/Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

A GOP-backed bill introduced Monday would change the name of an Ohio state park to honor former President Donald Trump.

The bill primarily sponsored by freshman state Rep. Mike Loychik to rename Mosquito Lake State Park to Donald J. Trump State Park is the latest attempt by Ohio Republicans to honor the former president.

"This legislation is meant to honor the commitment and dedication that our 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, bestowed upon the great people of Trumbull County," Loychik wrote in an initial statement.

He added, "This enthusiasm for our former president was also historic throughout the state of Ohio last November as he pushed for initiatives and policies that was very well-received with my constituency and the state."

While Trump lost the 2020 presidential election, he won Ohio with more votes than any candidate in



In this Oct. 12, 2018 file photo then President Donald Trump waves as he arrives for a campaign rally, in Lebanon, Ohio.

state history.

The state park proposal is just the latest indication of Trump's influence in politics over the GOP party in Ohio — whether in the measured approaches of it over establishment Republicans like Gov. Mike DeWine, who is expected to run for reelection next year, or in the many right-wing candidates vying for the party's nomination for Sen. Rob

Portman's seat.

In Trumbull County, where the Mosquito Lake State Park is located, Trump won nearly 55% of the vote in November.

The state park is located in Cortland, Ohio, with more than 7,000 acres, and one of the largest lakes in the state. Loychik had initially announced his plans for the bill in mid-March, resulting in a wave of criticism from

Democratic colleagues.

"Ohioans' are struggling with an addiction crisis, economic disruption, and a pandemic that the other guy said would disappear just like magic," Democratic Rep. Rich Brown tweeted on March 12. "Instead of addressing these pressing issues, Ohio House Republicans are spending their time flattering the Insurrectionist in Chief."

The state would need \$300,000 allocated to change the signs in the park, according to the bill language.

A message seeking comment was left Tuesday with Loychik.

Also in response to the bill, the state Department of Natural Resources defended the name of the park.

"The name has withstood the test of time. Mosquito Creek Lake was formed by damming Mosquito Creek back in 1944," the statement read. "Since then, Mosquito Lake State Park has become one of Ohio's best state parks, best fishing lakes, and has one of Ohio's most important wildlife refuges."

The first proposal introduced by Republican legislators in honor of Trump sought to declare his birthday, June 14, as Donald J. Trump Day in Ohio.

While it is not uncommon for states to turn the birthdays of former presidents into paid holidays or days of significance, that designation is usually bestowed after death. More than 40 states, including Ohio, recognize Ronald Reagan Day. □

Associated Press

U.S. military: 32 of 40 Guantanamo prisoners now vaccinated

By BEN FOX

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Most of the prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay detention center have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as of Tuesday, the U.S. military said a day after resuming an effort to inoculate them that was halted months earlier after criticism from Congress.

Thirty-two of the 40 prisoners held at the U.S. base in Cuba have received the first dose, Southern Command said in a brief statement. It provided no further details, including why the eight remaining men have not received the vaccine. The prisoners are not required to be vaccinated.

The announcement in January that the military intended to offer the vaccine to prisoners sparked

intense criticism, particularly among Republicans in Congress, at a time when COVID-19 vaccines were just being rolled out to troops and civilians at Guantanamo and were not widely available in the United States.

The military resumed the vaccinations on Monday, the day that the vaccine became available to all Americans older than 16 in the U.S. and all adults at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, on the southeastern coast of Cuba.

A senior defense official told the AP earlier that vaccinations were being offered to comply with legal requirements regarding the treatment of prisoners and to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading to troops and others on the base. No cases of COVID-19 have

been reported among the prisoners.

Strict quarantine procedures had already sharply curtailed activities at Guantanamo and halted legal proceedings for prisoners facing war crime trials, including the men charged in the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. The vaccination effort is expected to enable court hearings to eventually resume at the base.

The Biden administration announced in April that it would conduct a full review of detention center operations with the goal of eventually closing the facility, which opened in January 2002 to hold people suspected of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban after the Sept. 11 attacks.

At its peak in 2003, the detention center held nearly 680 prisoners, and it drew



In this Wednesday, April 17, 2019 file photo reviewed by U.S. military officials, the control tower is seen through the razor wire inside the Camp VI detention facility in Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba.

Associated Press

widespread condemnation over the treatment of the men held there, most without charges.

Closing it has proved a challenge because the U.S. has sought to continue holding and prosecute some prisoners, but Congress has prevented the transfer of anyone held there to facilities inside the country.

Those still being held include Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, who, along with four others, faces trial on charges that include murder and terrorism over the Sept. 11 attacks. The long-stalled case remains in the pretrial stage, and no hearings have been held in more than a year because of the pandemic. □

U.S. lab looks to boost power supply ahead of nuclear mission

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) —

The U.S. government plans to build a new transmission line and make other upgrades costing hundreds of million dollars to ensure its laboratory in northern New Mexico has enough electricity for ongoing operations and future missions that include manufacturing key components for the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Officials have said one of the existing lines that feeds Los Alamos National Laboratory is expected to reach capacity this summer.

The other likely will hit its limit within the next few years amid more high-computing projects related to nuclear weapons design and performance and as work ramps up to build the plutonium cores that are used to trigger weapons.

The U.S. Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration announced Monday that it will work with federal land managers to assess the project's potential environmental effects.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for May 6 and the public will have until May 21 to weigh in on the scope of the planned review.

The proposed transmission



In this undated file aerial photo is the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M.

Associated Press

line would stretch more than 12 miles (19 kilometers), crossing national forest land in an area known as the Caja del Rio and spanning the Rio Grande at White Rock Canyon. New structural towers would need to be built on both sides of the canyon.

The project — which could cost up to \$300 million — also would require new overhead poles with an average span of 800 feet (244 meters), access roads for construction and maintenance and staging areas

where materials can be stored.

Federal officials have said they plan to try to have the project avoid known biological, recreational, cultural and historical resources, such as the Camino Real Aldentro National Historic Trail.

Another goal would be minimizing visibility of the transmission line from residential areas.

Part of the line would be built along an existing utility corridor, but a new path would have to be

cut through forest land to reach an electrical substation.

The Los Alamos Study Group, a watchdog group that has been critical of the lab's expansion plans, reiterated concerns about the lack of an overall analysis of the cumulative effects that plutonium core production and more weapons work could have on the surrounding communities.

Greg Mello, the group's director, said no comprehensive information regarding the future of lab is available

to the public, to local and state governments or to the immediately affected Native American tribes. He pointed to future land acquisition and site plans and other documents that have been redacted.

"This is a poorly-justified project, one we strenuously oppose," he said in a statement, adding that the electrical capacity the lab claims it needs is double what it has now and is premised on as-yet-unapproved programs and projects.

Environmentalists, residents and others have suggested that the lab tap into its scientific capabilities and consider other options such as superconducting transmission lines, battery storage and solar generation.

They point to the project as an opportunity to move the state close to reaching mandates of electricity generation being carbon-free over the next two decades.

They also voiced concerns about potential effects on the Caja del Rio, saying it encompasses wide Indigenous landscapes and is a scenic gateway to northern New Mexico.

The area has seen an increase in outdoor recreational use and it serves as a migration corridor for wildlife. □



Emergency service personnel work at the scene of a shooting at a Stop & Shop supermarket, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, in West Hempstead, N.Y.

Associated Press

WEST HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — A man suspected of shooting three workers inside a manager's office at a Long Island grocery store Tuesday, killing one

of them, was arrested after fleeing the scene and remaining at large for several hours, police said.

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran tweeted

Police: 1 killed, 2 wounded in shooting at NY grocery store

around 3:15 p.m. Tuesday that Gabriel DeWitt Wilson was in police custody. Information on charges and a lawyer who could speak on Wilson's behalf wasn't immediately available.

The shooting happened around 11 a.m. inside an office upstairs from the shopping floor at the Stop & Shop supermarket in West Hempstead, Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said.

There were about a "couple hundred" shoppers inside the store at the time, he said.

"They told us to just run and get out, and that's what

we did," shopper Laura Catanese told News 12 Long Island.

Barbara Buttermann told Newsday she heard four or five shots while shopping for produce, initially thinking the sound was something falling in the back storeroom.

"Everyone was running around upstairs where offices were," Buttermann told the newspaper.

The name of the victims have not been made public. The man who was killed was a 49-year-old store employee, Ryder said. The two wounded were hospitalized and were conscious

and alert.

Police identified the suspected gunman as Wilson and gave a date of birth for him indicating he is 31 years old. He had been employed by that store, but it was unclear whether he was still working there, Ryder said.

Wilson was wearing all black and carrying a small handgun as he fled westbound on Hempstead Turnpike, Ryder told reporters at a news conference. He was arrested after police converged on a neighborhood in nearby Hempstead, which is east of the grocery store. □

Russia rejects criticism of navigation limits off Crimea

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia insisted Tuesday that it has the right to restrict foreign naval ships' movement off Crimea, rejecting Ukrainian complaints and Western criticism.

Ukraine last week protested the Russian move to close broad areas of the Black Sea near Crimea to foreign navy ships and state vessels until November. The U.S. also aired its concern Monday, with State Department spokesman Ned Price saying "this represents yet another unprovoked escalation in Moscow's ongoing campaign to undermine and destabilize Ukraine."

Price noted that the move "is particularly troubling amid credible reports of Russian troop buildup in occupied Crimea and around Ukraine's borders."

The European Union also voiced concern about the troop buildup and the navigation restrictions.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov charged that the restrictions on foreign naval ships were in line with international agreements, arguing that it's common practice to limit areas where military drills are held. He emphasized in remarks carried by Russian news agencies that the restrictions wouldn't interfere with commercial



This handout photo released on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service shows, Russian navy ships are seen during navy drills in the Black Sea.

Associated Press

shipping.

In a separate move, Russia on Tuesday also announced restrictions on flights near Crimea for five days starting Tuesday.

The Russian military holds massive Black Sea maneuvers this week.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov argued that such airspace closures are common international practice. Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March 2014 after the country's former Russia-friendly president was driven from power by protests. Moscow then threw its weight be-

hind separatists in eastern Ukraine, and the conflict there has killed more than 14,000 people in seven years.

Tensions have risen in recent weeks with increasing violations of a cease-fire in eastern Ukraine and a massive Russian troop buildup along the Ukrainian border. Moscow has rejected Ukraine and Western concerns, arguing that it's free to deploy its forces and charging that they don't threaten anyone.

But at the same time, Moscow sternly warned Ukrainian authorities against trying

to use force to retake control of the rebel east, noting recent statements by Ukrainian military officers who held the door open for an offensive. The Kremlin said that Russia could be forced to intervene to protect civilians in the region.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday accused Ukraine of trying to destabilize the situation in eastern Ukraine and lashed out at the U.S. and NATO for what he described as "provocative actions" in the Black Sea area.

The U.S. and its NATO al-

lies have regularly sent navy ships to the Black Sea and the U.S. flew strategic bombers over Ukraine, vexing Moscow. However, the U.S. reversed a planned deployment of two destroyers in the Black Sea earlier this month amid the heightening tensions.

The Russian military has conducted a series of drills in southwestern Russia, in Crimea and other areas. On Tuesday, a pair of Tu-160 nuclear-capable strategic bombers flew over the Baltic Sea for eight hours, and the Northern Fleet conducted massive maneuvers in the Arctic, the Defense Ministry said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba insisted Tuesday that Kyiv wasn't planning any offensive in the east.

"No, Ukraine is not planning any offensive, military escalation or provocations," he said at a news conference, adding that "we are making every effort for a diplomatic and peaceful resolution of the conflict."

Kuleba charged that the Russian buildup across the border is continuing and is "expected to reach a combined force of over 120,000 troops" in about a week and urged the West to beef up sanctions against Moscow by targeting entire sectors of the Russian economy. □

Amid U.S. strains, China's Xi warns against 'unilateralism'

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for more equitable management of global affairs and, in an implicit rejection of U.S. dominance, said governments shouldn't impose rules on others.

Xi's speech at an economic forum comes amid rising tension with China's neighbors and Washington over its strategic ambitions and demands for a bigger role in making trade and other rules.

Without mentioning the United States, Xi criticized "unilateralism of individual countries" and warned

against decoupling, a reference to fears U.S.-Chinese tension over technology and security will split industries and markets into separate, less productive spheres with incompatible standards.

"International affairs should be handled by everyone through consultation," Xi said by video link to the Boao Forum for Asia on the southern island of Hainan. "Rules made by one or more countries should not be forced upon others."

Xi called for stronger cooperation in research on coronavirus vaccines and steps to make them available to developing countries.

Xi's comments reflected the ruling Communist Party's desire for global influence to match China's status as the second-largest economy and frustration at what party leaders see as U.S. efforts to block its ambitions. Those sentiments have been fueled by sanctions imposed by former President Donald Trump that block access to U.S. processor chips and other technology for Chinese tech giant Huawei and some other companies.

"No matter how far it develops, China will never seek hegemony, expand, seek spheres of influence or engage in an arms race,"



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a keynote speech via video for the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference, in Beijing Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Associated Press

Xi said.

The annual Boao forum, founded in 2001, is mod-

eled on the Davos gathering of business leaders in Switzerland. □

Military says that Chad's president killed on battlefield

By EDOUARD TAKADJI and KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) —

Chad's longtime leader has died of wounds suffered during a visit to front-line troops battling a little-known rebel group, the military announced Tuesday, just hours after he was declared the winner of an election that would have given him another six years in power.

The military quickly announced President Idriss Deby Itno's son as the central African nation's interim leader, succeeding his 68-year-old father who ruled for more than three decades.

Some observers immediately questioned the chain of events leading up to Tuesday's stunning announcement on national radio and television.

Ayo Sogunro, a Nigerian lawyer and fellow at the South Africa-based Center for Human Rights, said that under Chadian law the term of an incumbent president who dies is completed not by family members but by the National Assembly. "The army seizing power and conferring it on the son of the president ... is a coup and unconstitutional," Sogunro tweeted Tuesday, calling for the African Union to condemn the transfer of power.



In this Monday, Jan. 13, 2020 file photo, Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno arrives at the G5 Sahel summit in Pau, southwestern France.

Deby's 37-year-old son, Mahamat, is best known as a top commander of the Chadian forces aiding a U.N. peacekeeping mission in northern Mali. The military said Tuesday he now will head an 18-month transitional council following his father's death.

The military called for calm, instituting a 6 p.m. curfew and closing the country's land and air borders as panic kept many inside their homes in the capital, N'Djamena.

"In the face of this worrying situation, the people of Chad must show their

commitment to peace, to stability, and to national cohesion," Gen. Azem Bermandoa Agouma said.

The circumstances of Deby's death could not immediately be independently confirmed due to the remote location of the fighting.

The government has released few details of its efforts to put down the rebellion in northern Chad, though it did announce Saturday that it had "totally decimated" one rebel column of fighters.

The rebel group, known as the Front for Change

and Concord in Chad, later put out a statement saying fierce battles had erupted Sunday and Monday. It released a list of five high-ranking military officials who it said were killed, and 10 others it said were wounded, including Chad's president.

The army only said Tuesday that Deby had fought heroically but was wounded in a battle. He was then taken to the capital where he died of unspecified wounds.

Some residents of the capital, though, said they feared there was more to

the story of Deby's demise. "The rumors that are going around about the transitional council give me the impression that some information is false," Thierry Djikoloum said. "They are already talking about dissolving parliament ... So for me, I'd say it was a coup d'etat. He was killed."

Some foreign observers also questioned how a head of state could have been killed, saying it cast doubt on his protective guard. The Chadian military has only acknowledged five deaths in weekend fighting in which it said it killed 300 rebels.

"We still don't have the whole story," Laith Alkhouri, a global intelligence adviser, told The Associated Press. "It raises concerns regarding the security forces' assessment of the clashes and their intelligence regarding the severity of the situation."

Other analysts pointed to Deby's long history of visiting the battlefield as a former army commander-in-chief himself.

"There's no evidence to suggest this was a coup committed by his troops. Anyone who follows Deby knows he used to say 'to lead troops you have to smell the gunpowder,'" tweeted Cameron Hudson with the Atlantic Council's Africa Center. □

Associated Press

Watchdog: Media freedom has deteriorated during pandemic



Christophe Deloire, head of RSF (Reporters without borders) stands in front of the 2021 map of press freedom in Paris, France, Tuesday April, 20, 2021.

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — There's been a "dramatic deterioration" of press freedom since the pandemic started to tear across the world, Reporters Without Borders said in its annual report published Tuesday.

The group's new World Press Freedom Index, which evaluated the press situations in 180 countries, painted a stark picture and concluded that 73% of the world's nations have serious issues with media freedoms.

It says countries have used the coronavirus pandemic, which erupted in China in late 2019, "as grounds to block journalists' access to information, sources and reporting in the field."

This is particularly the case in Asia, the Mideast and Europe, the media group said.

"Journalism is the best vaccine against disinformation," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. "Unfortunately, its production and distribution are too often blocked by political, economic, technological and, sometimes, even cultural factors. In response to the virality of disinformation across borders, on digital platforms and via social media, journalism provides the most effective means of ensuring that public debate is based on a diverse range of established facts."

Issues have also arisen from a drop in public trust in journalism itself. The group said 59% of people polled in 28 countries claimed that journalists "deliberately try to mislead the public by reporting information they know to be false." □

U.N. seeks \$29M for St. Vincent amid new volcanic threats

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The United Nations announced Tuesday that it is seeking \$29.2 million to help St. Vincent recover from ongoing volcanic eruptions that have destroyed homes and crops, contaminated water supplies and displaced up to 20% of people on the eastern Caribbean island.

Didier Trebucq, the U.N. resident coordinator for Barbados and the eastern Caribbean, described the scene as “apocalyptic” during an online press conference in St. Vincent.

“The devastating impact of this event on thousands of people is undeniable,” he said, adding that more money will be needed once damage assessments are completed.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves said officials are still quantifying the damage, but that rebuilding will run “in the hundreds of millions of dollars,” on top of “massive” humanitarian relief needs. More than 16,000 people were evacuated ahead of the first, April 9 explosion at La Soufriere volcano, with officials noting that ash is piled up to 16 inches (42 centimeters) high in some homes in the



Plumes of ash rise from the La Soufriere volcano on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Friday, April 16, 2021.

Associated Press

northern part of St. Vincent, where the volcano is located. More than 6,200 evacuees are staying in 88 government shelters and thousands of others in homes or private shelters.

Food, water and ash removal remain high priorities as neighboring nations and

organizations pour supplies and funding into St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an island chain of more than 100,000 people, the majority of whom live on the main island of St. Vincent.

So far, U.N. agencies have set aside \$2 million for water, hygiene and food

vouchers and will send experts to help with the ash cleanup, while nations including Guyana, Dominica and Trinidad & Tobago have pledged funding and shipped basic supplies.

Gonsalves said feeding up to 12,000 people is an “extraordinary, existential challenge,” for the island. Help also has gone beyond caring for humans: The Eastern Caribbean Group of Companies sent food for a large pig spotted hanging around the island’s volcano observatory that has endeared itself to many St. Vincentians and was nicknamed “Tremor.”

Gonsalves also said he worried about the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season that starts in six weeks, as well as the pandemic, given that thousands of displaced people are now huddling in shelters and homes of friends and family. Another concern is that ash and debris from the eruptions will form volcanic mudflows, lahars, as St. Vincent prepares for its rainy season. The first lahar was reported early Tuesday.

Scientists estimate that 100 million cubic meters of ash have fallen and Richard Robertson, who is leading the scientific team at the University of the West

Indies’ Seismic Research Center studying La Soufriere, said during an online press conference that rains could unleash fast-flowing rivers of mud and debris capable of great damage. During the conference, broadcast by local NBC radio, Robertson said scientists expect another explosion in the next week as the volcano seems to be forming a new lava dome.

While the volcano has been calm in recent days, “it can change pattern within minutes without any indication,” he said. “There’s a lot happening at the volcano that we don’t understand.” The volcano had a minor eruption in December, with a previous eruption occurring in 1979. An older eruption in 1902 killed some 1,600 people.

Gonsalves warned it would take a long time for the northern one-third of St. Vincent to recover and rebuild. He noted that a high number of impoverished people live in the area, which has long relied on agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing and some tourism.

“None of that exists anymore. ... Plants have to be replanted” he said, his voice breaking. “We have been set back decades.” □

U.N. agency to provide food assistance for Venezuelan children

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The food assistance agency of the United Nations announced Monday that it will begin operations in Venezuela after reaching an agreement with the South American nation’s government.

The efforts of the World Food Program will focus on feeding children in the areas with the highest prevalence of food insecurity. The agency plans to gradually expand programs to reach 1.5 million children by providing school meals, spending on remodeling school cafeterias and training staff on food safety standards.

“The children and the schools will be at the centre of our operation,” World

Food Program executive director David Beasley said in a statement. “We believe the school is the most appropriate platform for WFP to reach communities in an independent manner.” The announcement comes as Venezuela grapples with soaring food prices amid four-digit inflation, making it challenging for families to afford nutritious meals. The Rome-based agency has estimated that one of every three Venezuelans is struggling to consume enough daily calories.

Unlike recent years, when food insecurity was mainly a consequence of basic food shortages, the fundamental cause now is the high prices set in dollars. The average salary is less

than \$5 a month, which in most cases includes minimum wage and bonuses, but a chicken costs \$2.40 per kilo (2.2 pounds).

A joint analysis by World Food Program and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in October included Venezuela among 20 countries that were “likely to face potential spikes in high acute food insecurity” over the following three to six months and required “urgent attention.”

The agency’s goal is to reach 185,000 students by year’s end and 1.5 million by the end of the 2022-2023 school year. It estimated the food assistance program’s annual budget at \$190 million. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Beas-



Youth carry bags of basic food staples, such as pasta, sugar, flour and kitchen oil, provided by a government food assistance program, to delivery it in the Santa Rosalia neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Associated Press

ley met at the presidential palace. Maduro in a televised event expressed his satisfaction that a first step of many others has been taken as part of “a set of

ambitious projects that include food support for the entire people of Venezuela” following three years of “approach, encounters, disagreements.” □

LOCAL



Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair

ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's.

American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."



Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

NEW! Sublime seasonal menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational seasonal menu. We present to you a fresh Oyster Bar selection: French Kiss (Prince Edward Island), Irish Point (Prince Edward Island) and Billingsgate Lighthouse (Massachusetts) or West Bay (Massachusetts) and Duxbury (Massachusetts).

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with an appetizer like Tuna Tataki, seasoned yellowfin tuna flash-seared and sliced with ponzu and presented raw with wakame, wasabi and sweet pickled ginger or Grilled Oysters with butter, fennel and leeks.

You haven't reached your destination yet because the main course options will blow you away: Blackened Brazil, locally caught amberjack fillet blackened and presented with sweet potato, asparagus and served with sweet and

spicy red pepper compote or Broiled Lobster Tail, 12 oz Caribbean lobster tail with zucchini-potato roll and jardinière vegetables. In all honesty, how can you resist this?

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude: yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more.

About the place

The glow of Aqua Grill is obvious by entering the restaurant. The eclectic of a modern and a traditional New England fish house style appeal and the open-view kitchen adds to the thrill. It's clear as water; for sublime seafood in Aruba go to the island's premier seafood restaurant: Aqua Grill. This seafood-heaven place is already a statement for years with a consistency in upscale dining and top-shelf service. If you like to savor your seafood, this is your dive in. We promise you will get hooked. □

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Great vaccination campaign results at AAA

ORANJESTAD - During the months of March and April 2021 a large majority of staff members of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) received their vaccination against Covid 19.

After months sharing information on the benefits of vaccination with the staff on several company platforms, AAA employees signed up in large amounts to be vaccinated. More than 75 % of AAA employees have already received their second vaccine shot past weekend and another 10% to 15 %

will be receiving their second shot by early May. Achieving herd-immunity is very challenging for most companies, but as Angelina Flemming, Director Health, Safety and Sustainability of AAA indicated: "Our staff acknowledged the importance of vaccination for the recovery of our island and the crucial role Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA Airport) plays in this. We are very proud of every one of our colleagues for their courage and determination". Not only AAA staff have been signing up for vac-



AUA

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nation in large quantities, so too are other Airport users, and this week all Airport Badge holders will get the opportunity to receive their vaccination as well. □

The Rogers honored as Goodwill Ambassadors



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple **Mr. Charles & Mrs. Margaret Rogers**

This couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba All-Inclusive presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Aruba's underwater wonderland



ORANJESTAD — Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, and Mangel Halto is one of them.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven.



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Aruba Today's Columnists

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has two great local columnists who contribute to our newspaper with their knowledge and creativity. Please let us introduce to you Anthony, and Thais. They would surely appreciate your comments on their columns. So, feel free to express yourself!

Island Insight by Anthony Croes of Etnia Nativa

Anthony Croes is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a child, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that Aruba Today welcomed him as a columnist.



Island Insight can be read every Tuesday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.

Creative Islander by Thais Franken



Thais G. Franken (25) is a local academic researcher and is currently teaching at the University of Aruba in the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS). She is a graduate of the University of Maastricht (UM) and the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) where she obtained her double Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialization in Innovation, Institutions and Development. She has been researching the Aruban Creative Industry for quite some time and has collaborated with several local cultural NGOs to bring awareness of the possible impact of the Creative Industry on the island. It was her research on the "Socio-economic and Cultural Impact of the Creative Industry of the Aruban Sustainable Development" that inspired the emergence of the "Creative Islander" column back in 2018.

Thais is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, cultural heritage, education, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Creative Islander can be read every other Thursday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.

Creative Islander can be read every other Thursday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.

To read their informative columns go to www.aruba-today.com and scroll down on the columns tab to see all their material and also other read some other awesome columns we have.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. ☐

Millennial Money: Changing the face of the cannabis industry

By SEAN PYLES of NerdWallet

Cannabis businesses have transformed from clandestine ventures to glossy lifestyle brands in a matter of years, thanks to an evolving regulatory and business landscape.

The majority of states now have some form of legalized cannabis, whether for medical or recreational use. The 2021 U.S. cannabis market is valued at \$33 billion, according to an analysis by market research firm Grand View Research. That number is forecast to balloon to \$84 billion by 2028. These trends indicate a fertile environment for seeding a new cannabis venture.

But while the cannabis world continues to expand, the industry remains overwhelmingly white and difficult to break into for people of color and LGBTQ individuals. A 2017 survey from Marijuana Business Daily found that 81% of cannabis business owners and founders were white. The proportion of Hispanic/Latino owners and founders was 5.7%, while 4.3% were Black, and just 2.4% were Asian.

To help spur greater diversity, here's how people of color and LGBTQ individuals can spark their careers in cannabis.

RECLAIMING CANNABIS



The THC percentages of recreational marijuana are visible on the product packaging sitting on a countertop, Monday, April 19, 2021, in Mamaroneck, N.Y.

Associated Press

Cannabis has been both a weapon against and a balm for racial minorities and LGBTQ individuals.

Communities of color continue to be disproportionately policed for marijuana offenses. Black people are 3.6 times more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana possession, an April 2020 report from the American Civil Liberties Union found. And during the AIDS crisis, cannabis was one of few treatments that alleviated patients' pain, which led the LGBTQ community to advocate for legalization. These experiences are the context for today's push for

equity and entrepreneurship in the industry.

"We have a unique opportunity for people to do conscious capitalism," says Felicia Carbajal, a cannabis activist and executive director at the Social Impact Center, a nonprofit that provides opportunities for underserved communities. "The more BIPOC, the more queer people we have participating, we can force the industry to shift and find some values." (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and people of color.)

To Carbajal, that means creating equitable opportunities and protecting

people from abusive business practices, tokenization and exploitation.

FIND YOUR FOCUS AND KNOW YOUR PURPOSE

To break into the cannabis industry, pin down what kind of work you want to do and your motivation.

"Understand what you bring to the table," says JM Balbuena, founder of Synergy, a cannabis consulting firm in California. "If you can identify a problem in the space and with your unique skill set provide a solution and then replicate that with other companies, you can create a viable company."

But just because your skills

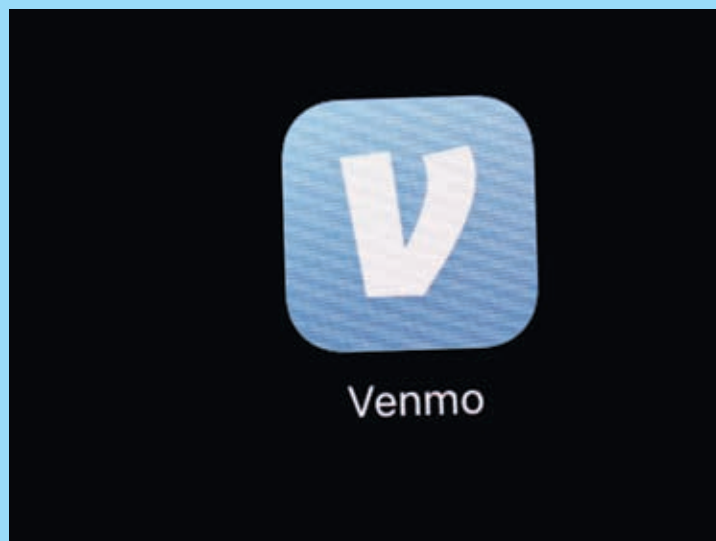
are transferable doesn't mean you'll be the right fit for this fast-paced and rapidly changing industry. Those who succeed tend to have two driving factors: a passion for the cannabis plant and a motivating "why" factor, says Gracie Morgan, director of operations for MedLeaf Delivery, a cannabis delivery company in Oceanside, California.

"As appealing and fresh and new as the cannabis industry is, it requires constant pivoting" to keep up with changing regulations and market conditions, Morgan says. "People who have a hard time pivoting typically don't last more than three years in the industry. To succeed, it's really important to identify your 'why' beyond something monetary."

Careers in cannabis aren't limited to owning a dispensary or working sales at one. There are numerous ancillary opportunities, like jobs in accounting, marketing and recruiting. For this type of work, you could start your own consulting firm or join an already established company.

These jobs tend to have lower barriers to entry for those in marginalized communities, since they don't require the same expensive licensing as "plant-touching" businesses like dispensaries. □

Venmo is into crypto, allowing users to buy Bitcoin, others



This March 20, 2018, file photo shows the Venmo app on an iPad in Baltimore.

Associated Press

By KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Venmo will allow users to buy and sell cryptocurrencies on its app, the company said Tuesday, the latest mainstream financial platform to wade into alternative currency like Bitcoin.

In addition to Bitcoin, Venmo has opened up the platform to Ethereum, Litecoin and Bitcoin Cash — generally considered to be among the mainstream of the digital currencies. Despite the social media proclaimed arrival of Doge Day Tuesday, the cryptocurrency Dogecoin is not on the list to be cleared for trade on Venmo. Crypto buyers will be able to publish their purchases or sells on the Venmo's social feed as well.

Bitcoin has attracted massive interest, particularly in the last 18 months. Its price has held steadily above \$50,000, and the value of other cryptocurrencies has been on the rise.

The digital currency trading platform Coinbase went public earlier this month, giving the company a valuation over more than \$80 billion. Companies like Tesla now accept Bitcoin as a form of payment on its cars.

Venmo will only allow users to buy, sell or hold crypto currencies. The company is not allowing its users to send these currencies as a form of payment between users yet. □

Mass fossil site may prove tyrannosaurs lived in packs

By SOPHIA EPPOLITO
Associated Press/Report for America

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Ferocious tyrannosaur dinosaurs may not have been solitary predators as long envisioned, but more like social carnivores such as wolves, new research unveiled Monday found. Paleontologists developed the theory while studying a mass tyrannosaur death site found seven years ago in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, one of two monuments that the Biden administration is considering restoring to their full size after former President Donald Trump shrunk them. Using geochemical analysis of the bones and rock, a team of researchers with



This photo provided by the Bureau of Land Management shows a “Hollywood” dinosaur specimen that was discovered approximately two miles north of the Rainbows and Unicorns Quarry on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah on Feb. 26, 2019.

involved in the research but reviewed the finding Monday. “It is a little tougher to be so sure that these data mean that these tyrannosaurs lived together in the good times,” Rogers said. “It’s possible that these animals may have lived in the same vicinity as one another without traveling together in a social group, and just came together around dwindling resources as times got tougher.” In 2014, Bureau of Land Management paleontologist Alan Titus discovered the site, which was later named the Rainbows and Unicorns quarry because of the vast array of fossils contained inside. Excavation has been ongoing since the site’s discovery because of the size of the area and volume of bones. “I consider this a once-in-a-lifetime discovery for myself,” Titus told reporters during a virtual news conference. “I probably won’t find another site this exciting and scientifically significant during my career.”

Associated Press

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	2			1	4	5	3
1			5					2
6			9					1
7			4				9	
	6	8					4	
2			8			1		
5			3			6		
8			1		4			
	1	6			7			

Difficulty Level ★★★

4/21

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the University of Arkansas determined that the dinosaurs died and were buried in the same place and were not the result of fossils washing in from multiple areas. The new Utah site is the third mass tyrannosaur grave site that’s been discovered

in North America — bolstering a theory first developed 20 years ago that they lived in packs. However, more research needs to be done to make that argument, said Kristi Curry Rogers, a biology professor at Macalester College who wasn’t in-

Kosovar biologist calls newly found insect after coronavirus



Halil Ibrahim, 44, associate professor at the faculty of natural sciences at Pristina university looks under a microscope at an insect named Potamophylax coronavirus, inside a lab in Pristina on Friday, April 16, 2021.

Associated Press

By FLORENT BAJRAMI and LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press
PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovar biologist Halil Ibrahim believes the pandemic restrictions haven’t all been bad — as a result of them, he completed

his research, raised public awareness of the pollution of river basins and named a newly discovered insect after the virus. Ibrahim, 44, had spent years working on a research report on a caddisfly species found in Kosovo’s

western Bjeshket e Nemuna (Accursed Mountains) national park. That species now bears the name Potamophylax coronavirus. As an associate professor of the Natural Sciences Faculty at Pristina University, Ibrahim collected the species, which turned out to be endemic to the national park, 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the capital Pristina, and found it was quite different from the other species in the Balkans. It is considerably smaller, and lives in a different habitat, in open, high-altitude zones, some 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) above sea level. He announced the new name he had chosen for the species in a scientific magazine this month. “Coronavirus was the most vivid thing during the time when the species was discovered,” he said.

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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An odd surrogate friendship in 'Together Together'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

The new film "Together Together" has a great premise: A single, straight man wants to be a father and decides to hire a surrogate to help. It's fertile territory that has been fairly unexplored in popular art and brings with it a host of built in dramatic and comedic opportunities, especially with someone like Ed Helms leading the cast. Writer-director Nikole Beckwith ("Stockholm, Pennsylvania") instead chooses to focus on the relationship between Helms' character Matt and his surrogate, Anna (Patti Harrison) and it becomes just another semi-quirky, frustratingly surface exploration of two lonely headcases finding comfort in one another. In some ways, it's a quintessential Sundance film. The baby and the pregnancy become just a screenwriter's excuse to put these two together. It's too bad because Helms shows promise stretching in a more dramatic role and Harrison herself is a captivating presence. Matt is a 40-something app developer living a comfort-



This image released by Bleecker Street shows Ed Helms, left, and Patti Harrison in a scene from "Together Together."

able life in San Francisco. Anna is in her mid-20s and working at a coffee shop. We're introduced to them as Matt is interviewing potential surrogates and it's hardly an instant connection. In fact, it's a terribly stilted exchange that is made only somewhat funny by the excruciating awkwardness of it all. It's unclear if there were any other candidates to choose from but Matt for some reason chooses Anna as his gestational surrogate and soon

they're having another stilted conversation at the doctor's office. She's pregnant. It's not the first pregnancy for Anna. In the interview we find out that she had a baby that she gave up for adoption as a teenager. The experience caused a rift with her family and she spent the next few years drifting and estranged. But she has a plan to get back on track and wants to use the money from the surrogacy to go to get a college degree in Vermont.

From the start, Matt and Anna's relationship seems misguided and unhealthy. Matt starts showing up at her work and apartment bearing gifts like pregnancy tea and supportive clogs. They visit the doctor's together. They go out to dinner. They choose colors for the baby's nursery. They even go to couple's therapy together and, separately, support groups for surrogates and expectant parents using surrogates. He monitors what she eats

and how she's progressing and makes a big deal out of the fact that she's still dating in the first trimester. It all seems wildly inappropriate and overbearing, especially considering Anna doesn't even want to know the sex of the baby so she doesn't get attached. And although she talks about boundaries, soon she's staying at his house on the regular and binging "Friends" with him. This might all be fine or understandable if Matt and Anna had some sort of chemistry with one another. I'm not even suggesting anything romantic. They're just two strangers thrust together by this surrogacy agreement and spending time with them is not fun, engaging or enlightening enough to sustain a movie. A strong supporting cast including Nora Dunn, Fred Melamed, Rosalind Cho, Sufe Bradshaw and Tig Notaro can't even help all that much in their limited time on screen. Beckwith's script does have a few moments of grace and humor. Helms gets a particularly beautiful monologue about why he wants a child. And there are wry observations too about how all parenting books for single dads are for widows and divorcees. But there are far more clichés, contrivances and threads left unnecessarily dangling. Recent films like the fertility drama "Private Life" and the adoption comedy "Instant Family" have successfully and entertainingly taken audiences on journeys through different facets of modern parenting. "Together Together" had a chance to do that for surrogacy and single fatherhood but comes up short.

New collection of columns by the late Jenny Diski

By ANN LEVIN
The Associated Press

"Why Didn't You Just Do What You Were Told?" by Jenny Diski (Bloomsbury Publishing) A lot of criticism doesn't age well because it's tied to ephemeral moments in our cultural life. Jenny Diski's is likely to stand the test of time because it offers readers a bracing mix of razor-sharp analysis and wrenchingly honest autobiography. "Why Didn't you Just Do What You Were Told?" brings together 33 of more than 200 columns she wrote for the London Review of Books over a prolific career that included novels, short stories, memoir and travelogues. Most are book reviews, giving her a springboard



This cover image released by Bloomsbury shows "Why Didn't You Just Do What You Were Told" by Jenny Diski. Associated Press

for wide-ranging reflections on everyone from Jeffrey Dahmer and Denis Thatcher to Anne Frank, Princess Margaret, Martha

Freud (wife of Sigmund), Roald Dahl, and many more. In the essay on Dahl, she explains why "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and other books by the famously unpleasant author are so wildly popular with kids. "They speak to the last overt remains of the disreputable, unsocialized, inelegant parts of themselves the grown-ups are trying so hard to push firmly underground." Here she is in 2007, reflecting on the "sentimentality and hysteria" that washed over Kensington Palace after Princess Diana died. "Ten years on ... it isn't entirely obvious what fascinated people so ... Take the bright lights away and you have a regular messy

divorce ... The only remarkable thing was that he left her for an older woman." The most gripping have to do with her own extraordinary life, including a lifelong struggle with depression, suicide attempts, psychiatric hospitalizations, and a 2014 diagnosis of inoperable lung cancer that killed her less than two years later at age 68. Diski was born in London in 1947, the daughter of working-class immigrant Jews, who subjected her, together and separately, to neglect and abuse. As a troubled teenager, she was taken in by Doris Lessing, launching a fraught relationship with the celebrated writer that she only wrote about after Lessing's 2013 death.

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8	9	3	1	6	4	5	2	7
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NFL offseason programs begin with mixed player involvement

By The Associated Press

With groups of players from 20 NFL teams saying they will skip in-person attendance, voluntary offseason programs began Monday across the league.

Through the NFL Players Association, players from the Super Bowl champion Buccaneers, 49ers, Rams, Seahawks, Dolphins, Jets, Patriots, Chargers, Raiders, Broncos, Falcons, Saints, Steelers, Browns, Ravens, Giants, Eagles, Vikings, Bears and Lions posted statements that they would not be on hand at team facilities for voluntary work. Those statements did not cover every player from those clubs.

On Monday, for example, some players reported to the Cowboys, Patriots, Raiders and Panthers facilities.

"We'd like to hope that we create a great environment for them," said Cowboys executive vice president of personnel Stephen Jones. "But at the end of the day, this is not a mandatory time of the year for our players. And historically, it's never been mandatory and historically, though, we still have a large number of players who chose to work out here."

"We have a lot of guys down here, looks like to me. I'm overlooking the field and a lot of guys are out here working out. Just want to provide them a great opportunity here to get better. Every player, every team's different."

"It's interesting because we all know OTAs are voluntary. That's strictly up to the players. They certainly



In this Jan. 10, 2021, file photo, Cleveland Browns center JC Tretter (64) snaps the ball during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

have the right to make those decisions. I'm sure our players have talked at length about it."

Meanwhile, the league and players' union continue talks about adjustments to the offseason.

"Obviously it's virtual right now, so we have a little time to think about it and figure out the best plan as a team," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "We're in talks with the NFLPA and figuring out what's best not just for us but the whole league."

Last week, the NFL sent a memo to all 32 teams saying the first four weeks of the voluntary program will be virtual. The plan is to then transition to in-person work at team facilities —

something Browns center JC Tretter, the union president, has said is unnecessary.

Last year, the offseason programs were all done virtually and training camp was pushed back because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, organized team activities can begin May 24 for 10 sessions, and minicamps, which are mandatory, can be held until June 18.

Whether players show for any of those workouts is uncertain. Tretter, who spoke with Browns management about the players' viewpoint, has been adamant that the 2020 approach should be continued.

"The good news for our sport is that while the NFL

season looked and felt noticeably different from previous years," he wrote last month on the NFLPA website, "we learned that the game of football did not suffer at the expense of protecting its players more than ever before."

"Our process is to follow the science on what is safest for our guys, and many of the changes this past year — like no in-person offseason workouts/practices, the extended acclimation period before training camp and no preseason games — gave us a year of data that demonstrates maintaining some of these changes long term is in the best interest of the game."

Noting that on-field experience is the most valuable

teaching too, Chiefs coach Andy Reid expressed faith in his players doing their part in preparing for next season.

"I trust they're going to be on the calls for right now, which I think is important," Reid said. "We can go over scheme evaluation — we spend endless hours on that thing trying to make it right. I think that's important and that's the crawl before you walk when hopefully you're able to get the guys in one of the other phases. But for right now this ends up being the most important thing as we move forward." Gil Brandt — a longtime NFL executive, Pro Football Hall of Fame member and current league draft analyst — is a "great believer" in the in-person offseason sessions.

"It's where players improve," Brandt said Monday during a SiriusXM conference call. "And you know, we had a bunch of players on our team that were changing positions; Pat Donovan is an example. Four-time Pro Bowler, small school (Fort Valley State). Herbert Scott, small school (Virginia Union). And I think if it weren't for the offseason program, I don't think they would have achieved the stardom that they did and helping win football games like they did if it wasn't for that tune-up."

"But I think that the new president of the players association, Tretter, with his Cornell background, I think he's a thinker, and he's always thinking of ways to make it easier for the players yet not hurt their overall performance." □

NFL, iHeartMedia teaming up to launch podcast network

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

The NFL is making a more aggressive push into podcasting.

The league announced Monday it will partner with iHeartMedia in launching a podcast network. iHeart will distribute podcasts currently produced by the league's media division. The two parties will also team up to produce and distribute podcasts currently in the works.

"This really gets us into the podcasts space, where we can supercharge the visibility of our current podcasts and increase the distribution as well as use content from our library to create new podcasts," said Brent Lawton, the NFL's vice president of business development.

The NFL currently produces seven podcasts featuring writers from the league's website as well as NFL Network commentators. Those will now be distributed by iHeartMedia

through its podcast network, on its app and other podcast platforms. iHeartMedia is the top podcast producer, according to Podtrac. Some of their podcasts include "The Ron Burgundy Podcast" and "Chelsea Handler: Life will be the Death of Me."

The deal also allows teams to do their own podcasts that can be distributed via iHeart.

Lawton said future podcasts will include content from the NFL Films

library and that this deal allows them to appeal to a different segment of fans. The new podcasts should debut by the start of the upcoming season.

"Our partnership with the NFL is an incredible moment for iHeart and the podcast industry," said Conal Byrne, CEO of iHeartMedia Digital Audio Group. "These are legendary stories, and we can't wait to roll out a slate of incredible new podcasts to capture it all." □

Red Sox beat Giolito, White Sox 11-4 on Patriots' Day



Boston Red Sox's J.D. Martinez celebrates his solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox at Fenway Park, Monday, April 19, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Kiké Hernández led off with a replay-aided home run and Bobby Dalbec worked a 14-pitch walk in a six-run first inning against Lucas Giolito, helping the Red Sox beat the Chicago White Sox 11-4 on Monday in the first Patriots' Day game played apart from the Boston Marathon.

The Marathon was moved to Oct. 11 because of Massachusetts limits on crowds during the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Patriots Day game, with a start shortly after 11 a.m., has been played by the Red Sox since 1959. It drew a limited crowd of 4,738.

Giolito (1-1) was removed with two on and no outs in the second. He allowed eight runs — seven earned — and eight hits as his ERA more than doubled from 2.55 to 5.79.

Nathan Eovaldi (3-1) matched his career-high with 10 strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings, allowing four runs and nine hits with no walks.

BREWERS 3, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Brandon Woodruff and three relievers combined on a two-hitter and Luis Urias homered in his return to Petco Park before leaving with an injury as Milwaukee beat Joe Musgrove and San Diego.

Billy McKinney also homered off

Musgrove (2-2), who set a career-high with 13 strikeouts in his first home start since throwing the Padres' first no-hitter on April 9 at Texas. The big right-hander, who grew up in suburban El Cajon, is 0-2 since throwing the no-no.

Pinch-hitter Tyrone Taylor hit Milwaukee's third homer of the night, off Drew Pomeranz, leading off the eighth.

Woodruff (1-0) held San Diego to one run and one hit in six innings, struck out seven and walked three. J.P. Feyereisen walked one in the seventh, Brent Suter gave up a single to Caratini in the eighth and Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his second save.

MARINERS 4, DODGERS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Rookie Taylor Trammell homered and added a key RBI double, third baseman Dylan Moore thwarted a Dodgers rally with a terrific defensive play in the seventh and Seattle beat Los Angeles in a matchup of early season division leaders.

Seattle handed the Dodgers a second straight loss, the first time on the young season Los Angeles dropped consecutive games. It came on the strength of a couple long balls off Dodgers starter Dustin May (1-1) and a strong start by Jett Sheffield.

José Marmolejos got Seattle started with a two-run shot in the first inning that barely cleared the wall in right field. Trammell, one of Seattle's top young prospects, added a solo homer to deep left-center in the second inning, and his RBI double with two outs in the fourth capitalized on an error by second baseman Chris Taylor for a 4-2 lead. Sheffield (1-1) threw 5 2/3 innings, allowing four hits, three walks and striking out six.

GIANTS 2, PHILLIES 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brandon Belt hit a two-run homer, Kevin Gausman niftily pitched out of trouble in six innings and San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

San Francisco's Gabe Kapler became the first manager in major league baseball history to start his career 200-200. Kapler, who was 161-163 as Philadelphia's manager in 2018-19, was booed when he brought out the lineup card.

Gausman (1-0) allowed six hits, walked four and struck out five. He lowered his ERA to 2.45. Wandy Peralta finished off the seven-hitter for his second save.

Phillies starter Chase Anderson (0-2) yielded two runs and five hits in four innings.

CARDINALS 12, NATIONALS 5

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paul DeJong

hit two of St. Louis' five homers, including a grand slam, Tommy Edman and Paul Goldschmidt went deep back-to-back and the Cardinals offered Jack Flaherty his usual strong run support.

DeJong clanged a solo shot off the left-field foul pole in the second inning for the first run allowed by Joe Ross (1-1) in three games this season after he sat out 2020 because of COVID-19 concerns. DeJong later ended the right-hander's evening with another drive to left, this one off a high fastball after Dylan Carlson was walked intentionally to load the bases, making it 10-2 in the fifth.

Flaherty (3-0) is used to that sort of cushion. The Cardinals are averaging 11 runs in his four starts this season — and 3.25 runs in the 12 games started by other pitchers.

RAYS 4, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Josh Fleming pitched two-hit ball into the sixth inning, and Kevin Kiermaier led a strong effort from the bottom of Tampa Bay's batting order. Fleming (1-1) struck out three in 5 1/3 innings, getting big cheers from friends and family who journeyed over from his hometown of Bridgeton, Missouri. The 24-year-old left-hander has allowed just one run in 10 1/3 innings this year.

Relievers Ryan Thompson and Hunter Strickland carried the baton out of the bullpen and held Kansas City to two hits, both in the eighth. Chris Mazza shut the door in the ninth.

Danny Duffy (2-1) struck out eight in six innings and allowed two runs — neither earned — and four hits with two walks.

RANGERS 6, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Adolis García homered and doubled off Dylan Bundy, Kohei Arihara took a shutout into the sixth inning and Texas got its offense on track.

Texas eclipsed its entire output during a three-game home series against Baltimore over the weekend, when it totaled just four runs.

Justin Upton homered for the Angels, while Bundy (0-2) gave up five runs and seven hits and was knocked out the game during the Rangers' five-run sixth inning. The right-hander had six strikeouts with two walks.

Arihara (2-1), in his fourth major league start, retired Angels star Shohei Ohtani in two at-bats, although one was a deep fly to center that García caught while crashing into the padded wall. Arihara and Ohtani were teammates in Japan with the Nippon Ham Fighters from 2015-17. □